

NEWS...

Approved For Release 2002/10/30 : CIA-RDP80B01676R000900030076-9

U. S. SENATOR PRESCOTT BUSH
(R.-Conn.)

Encl.	60-281
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For Release:

12:15 P.M., Sunday, Jan. 31, 1960

Washington, Jan. 31 -- Secretary of Defense Thomas S. Gates, Jr., said today he believes the United States is strong enough, militarily, to prevent Russia from starting a third World War.

The Secretary's statement was made in response to a question by U. S. Senator Prescott Bush, a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services. Mr. Gates appeared as a guest on Senator Bush's television program, filmed here for broadcast by Connecticut stations.

"We have carefully analyzed the relative positions of the Soviet Union and the United States concerning our over-all strength, our deployed forces, the great strength of the Strategic Air Command, and the weapons we have with the armed services scattered throughout the world," Secretary Gates said.

"We believe we are in a first-rate, first position in regards to military strength."

Senator Bush commented that "it's not just the quality of the individual services, but the variety of military services which we will bring to bear on the total situation that gives us a position of superior strength."

"This is correct," Secretary Gates said.

Discussing the so-called 'missile gap', Secretary Gates said that "according to our best estimates, the Soviet Union will have moderately more numbers of missiles in production and in operations, peaking around 1962, after which the numbers will close.

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

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"However," he continued, "the inter-continental missile is only one way of doing this terrible business; meanwhile, we are expanding our own missile program, putting missiles on our bomber force and bringing into operation Polaris submarines which we believe will offset any so-called missile gap, at least from the point of view of the validity of our deterrent."

The program will be broadcast by Connecticut television and radio stations on the following schedule:

TELEVISION

Sunday, January 31	---	WNBC-TV, West Hartford	- 12:10 PM
		WNHC-TV, New Haven	- 12:30 PM
		WHCT-TV, Hartford	- 12:55 PM
		WTIC-TV, Hartford	- 1:25 PM
		WATR-TV, Waterbury	- 11:00 PM

RADIO

Sunday, January 31	---	WDRC, Hartford	- 4:55 PM
		WINF, Manchester	- 6:00 PM
		WELI, New Haven	- 6:20 PM

At a time to be announced: WTOP, Hartford
WAVZ, New Haven
WSUB, Groton

A transcript is enclosed.

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SENATOR BUSH: Hello everybody. One of the most important -- if not the most important -- issues facing Congress is national defense.

How does America's military strength compare with that of the Soviet Union?

Will a 'missile gap' endanger our national security in the years immediately ahead?

As a member of the Senate Armed Services committee, I am vitally concerned with these questions, as I am sure all thoughtful citizens are concerned.

Today, I am privileged to have as my guest, here on this program, a man who next to the President of the United States has the most complete knowledge of the nation's defense posture -- Secretary of Defense, Thomas S. Gates, Jr., who happens to be an old friend of mine.

Mr. Secretary, it's a pleasure to introduce you to my friends in Connecticut.

SECRETARY GATES: Senator Bush, it's a great privilege to be on any program with a long-time friend. I'm well aware of the importance of Connecticut in supplying arms and support to the national defense establishment. I remember when I was in the Navy they supplied submarines, airplanes and engines and great importance was attached to Connecticut's interest in national defense.

SENATOR BUSH: Well, we're very proud of our connection with the Navy as well as the Air Force, of course, Mr. Secretary.

Now, I just want to ask you a couple of questions today. Are we strong enough, militarily, to prevent Russia from starting a third World War?

SECRETARY GATES: I believe we are, Senator. We have carefully analyzed the relative positions of the Soviet Union and the United States concerning our overall strength, our deployed forces, the great strength of our Strategic Air Command, and the weapons we have with the armed services scattered throughout the world. We believe we are in a first-rate, first position in regards to military strength.

SENATOR BUSH: We might say that it's not just the quality of the individual services, but the variety of military services which we will bring to bear on the total situation that gives us a position of superior strength.

SECRETARY GATES: This is correct.

SENATOR BUSH: Now, we hear talk in the newspapers and in politics, about the so-called 'missile gap' -- the fact that the Russians are going to have a missile advantage over us in due course, and very soon. The question I want to ask you is to comment about this missile gap, and are we likely to be vulnerable to attack in the early '60s because of the missile gap?

SECRETARY GATES: We believe that according to our best estimates, the Soviet Union will have moderately more numbers of missiles in production and in operations peaking around 1962, after which the numbers will close. However, the intercontinental missile is only one way of doing this terrible business; meanwhile, we are expanding our own missile program, putting missiles on our bomber force, and bringing into operation Polaris submarines which we believe will offset any so-called missile gap, at least from the point of view of the validity of our deterrent.

SENATOR BUSH: I think that's a very fine statement. I'm sure my friends back home are very glad to hear you say that, Mr. Secretary Gates. I would simply observe, in addition to that I would recall something you said before our Committee regarding the accuracy of our missile development in contrast with that supposed to exist with the Russians which I think is a very comforting thing, indeed--the accuracy of our Atlas missile for instance which has really amazed the people in the services themselves. Is that not so?

SECRETARY GATES: The accuracy of the Atlas has exceeded our fondest expectations.

SENATOR BUSH: Thank you very much, Mr. Gates. I'm afraid our time is up. Thank you for being with us today.

SECRETARY GATES: Thank you, Senator.

NEWS...

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U. S. SENATOR PRESCOTT BUSH
(R.-Conn.)

For Release:
AMS, Friday, Jan. 29, 1960

Washington, Jan. 28 -- Secretary of Defense Thomas S. Gates, Jr., said tonight that the Polaris missile-firing submarine was "one of the very, very top priority" programs in the nation's defense effort, and that two of these weapons systems will be operational in 1960.

Secretary Gates discussed defense problems with U. S. Senator Prescott Bush, of Connecticut, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, on the Senator's radio program, recorded here for broadcast by Connecticut stations.

Senator Bush asked Mr. Gates whether the United States will "at any time be behind Russia in overall strategic power, resulting from a 'deterrent gap'?"

"First let me say, Senator," the Defense Secretary replied, "as I testified before you and your committee and other Congressional committees that there will be no 'deterrent gap'.

"During the past year we have continued to acquire information about the status of the Soviet ICBM program. The Soviets may enjoy for a time a moderate numerical superiority in the next three years, but those who have analyzed this matter conclude that even a surprise attack by all the missiles the Soviets could muster would not suffice to destroy enough of our retaliatory strike forces to enable their leaders to make a rational decision to attack."

In discussing the Polaris weapons system, Secretary Gates said it "really creates a new inter-continental ballistic missile" and "approaches the ideal which we are striving for in our deterrent posture of being the best thing we have in the form of an invulnerable deterrent."

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The interview will be broadcast by Connecticut radio stations on the following schedule:

Thursday, January 23

WTIC, Hartford	- 7:45 PM
WSTC, Stamford	- 8:05 PM
WWCO, Waterbury	- 8:05 PM
WNLC, New London	- 9:30 PM
WILI, Willimantic	- 9:15 PM

Friday, January 29

WBRY, Waterbury	- 8:15 PM
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Saturday, January 30

WBIS, Bristol	- 12:45 PM
WLAD, Danbury	- 12:45 PM
WBZY, Torrington	- 12:45 PM
WATR, Waterbury	- 6:15 PM
WICH, Norwich	- 6:45 PM

Sunday, January 31

WHAY, New Britain	- 9:00 AM
WSUB, Groton	- 9:30 AM
WMMW, Meriden	- 10:00 AM
WLIS, Old Saybrook	- 12:05 PM
WPCT, Putnam	- 12:45 PM
WMM, Westport	- 2:30 PM
WKNB, West Hartford	- 4:30 PM
WNAB, Bridgeport	- 5:00 PM
WICC, Fairfield	- 7:30 PM

At a time to be determined

WDER, Hartford
WNHC, New Haven
WNLK, Norwalk
WTOR, Torrington

A transcript is enclosed.

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SENATOR BUSH: Hello everybody. This is Prescott Bush.

Later this year, President Eisenhower will continue his crusade for a just, enduring peace by going to the Soviet Union to discuss with Nikita Khrushchev ways in which world tensions can be reduced and the major powers can reduce armaments.

The President is convinced that the United States must negotiate with the Russians from a position of strength. As a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, I share that conviction.

In recent days, our Committee has been briefed, behind closed doors, by the Chairman and members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and by the top civilian officials of the Department of Defense.

I would like to share with you some of the information we have received, and I am privileged today to have as my guest on this program the Secretary of Defense, Thomas S. Gates, Jr.

Mr. Secretary, it is a pleasure to introduce you to my friends in Connecticut although they know you because of your long connection now with the Department.

SECRETARY GATES: Senator Bush, it's a great privilege to be with you on this program and to recognize the important contributions that have been made by the citizens of Connecticut to our national defense.

SENATOR BUSH: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. Now, here's a question. During the past six years you have occupied successively the offices of Under Secretary of the Navy then Secretary of the Navy, then Deputy Secretary of Defense, and now you are the Secretary of Defense. Would you summarize your overall philosophy concerning the problems involved in safeguarding the nation's security?

SECRETARY GATES: One of the most inspiring things I have witnessed during my six years of service in the Executive Branch has been President Eisenhower's personal efforts to secure an objective, non-partisan approach to foreign affairs and to defense policy.

The threat that the United States, and indeed, the entire free world faces today is not simply a military threat. It is also political, economic and psychological. To cope with this total threat requires a total strategy. Our military programs must be consciously integrated, and support all elements of our national policy.

SENATOR BUSH: Well, simply stated, let me ask you this: What are the objectives of our defense program?

SECRETARY GATES: The two principal objectives of our defense program continue to be: first, to deter the outbreak of a general war by maintaining and improving our present capability to retaliate in case a major attack is made upon us or on our allies. Second, to maintain, together with our allies, the capability to win and

fight and contain local wars if they break out. Our defense forces today can fulfill these major responsibilities.

SENATOR BUSH: Secretary Gates, have we any new information concerning the status of the Soviet intercontinental ballistic missile program which has led to the United States conclusion that if they do gain a lead over us in numbers of intercontinental missiles, it will be considerably less than was anticipated a year ago; and further, will the United States at any time be behind Russia in overall strategic power, resulting from a "deterrent gap"?

SECRETARY GATES: First let me say, Senator, as I testified before you and your committee and other Congressional committees that there will be no "deterrent gap." During the past year we have continued to acquire information about the status of the Soviet ICBM program. The Soviets may enjoy for a time a moderate numerical superiority in the next three years but those who have analyzed this matter conclude that even a surprise attack by all the missiles the Soviets could muster would not suffice to destroy enough of our retaliatory strike forces to enable their leaders to make a rational decision to attack. This conclusion is based on the knowledge that our overall deterrent posture depends on a great many things. It not only depends on our long-range missile capacity but also on our continued success with other weapons and with certain other military capabilities on which we are working.

It also depends very much on a posture of continued vigilance and continued review of our defense program.

SENATOR BUSH: Secretary Gates, I want to get a little more local here. I have been advocating the construction of more Polaris missile-firing submarines, such as the George Washington which was built at Groton, Conn., and which our people, therefore, have a special interest in. And, this submarine recently joined the Atlantic Submarine Fleet which is based in our State. I was pleased that the President's budget includes funds for three additional Polaris submarines, for a total of 12 now, and for procurement of lead-time components for three more.

Mr. Secretary, as a former Secretary of the Navy, as well as now being Secretary of Defense, would you tell our people back home how important an element of our defense strength you think that the Polaris submarine is and is destined to be?

SECRETARY GATES: Senator, I believe the Polaris system is one of the very, very top priority, important programs of the Department of Defense. It's quite extraordinary also, we've had the weapon system in being quicker than we originally estimated. The Polaris system, including the ballistic missile and the nuclear submarine, welded together, really creates a new intercontinental ballistic missile when you consider them both. It also has the enormous advantage of concealment.

dispersal, mobility, and it is almost impossible to predict its location. It is a very strong adjunct to our total strategic capability and it approaches the ideal which we are striving for in our deterrent posture of being the best thing we have in the form of an invulnerable deterrent. It's also gratifying to note that two of these submarines will be operational in this calendar year--at the end of this calendar year.

SENATOR BUSH: That is a very important thing for us to remember -- for anyone to remember, because the existence of only one in absolute readiness would be by itself a great deterrent. Of course, as we all know, the Polaris missile carries an atomic warhead and can do devastating damage, and it not only carries one missile in the submarine, but it carries several of them so that with just one in operation our position will be enormously increased over what it is at the present time. I think that's a very important point.

Now, Mr. Secretary, aside from the military rocketry program, how do you feel about our progress in the matter of space exploration?

SECRETARY GATES: Senator Bush, we are very much aware of the importance to the United States of a vigorous program in space flight and exploration, and of the need for bigger booster for the space exploration program. Our present intercontinental ballistic missiles and intermediate range boosters are adequate for the immediate needs of our military satellites. The development of the very large thrust boosters has been assigned by the President to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. In view of the potential military need for larger boosters than we now have we strongly endorse a vigorous space program.

The Department of Defense, however, is not interested in space flight and exploration as ends in themselves. Our space efforts are an integral part of our overall military program and will complement our other military capability. Our objectives today are to develop, produce and operate space systems to improve reconnaissance, missile warning, navigation, communications which will strengthen our national defense posture and second, to expedite the development of components for systems which will probably be needed in the future.

SENATOR BUSH: Yes. Now turning to a different subject, Mr. Secretary, how well do you feel we are equipped to fight a limited war, to handle such threats to general peace, such as developed in Lebanon, Quemoy and Matsu? I might say that I myself did spend several weeks in the Far East this last year in November, and I was tremendously impressed with the importance of our forces out there in maintaining stability in that whole situation out there--and I know you've been out there yourself on numerous occasions. I wonder if you can just tell us in a few words how you feel about our ability to fight limited wars at the present time?

SECRETARY GATES: We believe our ability is appropriate for such limited wars as would occur. We have to figure along with our deployed forces the forces of our allies in our program to help support and sustain and to have a high degree of confidence to complement our own deployed forces. It's a very difficult question to separate general and limited war forces because actually everything we have stands behind any situation. However, our Army, Navy, Marine Corps and large parts of our tactical Air Force are equipped to handle either nuclear or conventional weapons-- and as you know, Senator, they are deployed overseas, ready and alert to handle trouble spots. One of the important things is to have them deployed and alert to nip off any limited situation that may develop in which we have a major interest.

SENATOR BUSH: Thank you very much, Secretary Gates. I certainly, from my less informed position than yours, nevertheless, I concur very much with what you have to say on that particular subject. I was particularly impressed with this when I was in the Far East. I'm sure from what I have learned out there that if we didn't have the Seventh Fleet in those waters, if we did not have air force ready to strike in the event of trouble out there, that we would have been in serious trouble and the world would have been in serious trouble long before this. So that I am convinced, which I wasn't before I went, that the existence of the United States forces in these distant places is a great stabilizing influence for peace in the world today. That's why it's so very important not only that we maintain our forces at the current strength and increasing strength, but also encourage these other countries and assist them to build up their strength, just as we are doing with the Armed Forces of the Republic of Korea and the Republic of China, and with other countries through our military assistance program throughout the world today. It makes one proud to be an American to visit these countries and see the respect in which the United States is held and the respect for which the personnel of our armed forces in all branches of service are held by the local people.

Mr. Gates, I'm very grateful to you. I'm sure my friends back home are very grateful to you for taking this time out of your very busy schedule to be with us today. And we certainly are solidly behind you in your effort to promote a sounder and better defense of the United States. We have confidence in you, we believe you're well equipped for the job, and we know that you're a conscientious, honest public servant. Thank you very much.


SECRETARY GATES: Thank you, Senator Bush.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI

Secretary of Defense Gates has appeared in a TV interview with Senator Prescott Bush, and a transcript of the interview with the press release which was given to the newspapers this afternoon is attached herewith. It follows in general the talk that Gates was to give last night in Oregon. Page 2 of the transcript seems to be the most interesting.

There is also attached a press release from Bush's office for release at 12:15 Sunday.


STANLEY J. GROGAN
Assistant to the Director
28 Jan. 1960
(DATE)

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